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APPÉICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
09/053,448	04/10/1998	RAOUL MALLART	PHA23383	1361	
. 7	7590 08/14/2002				
US PHILIPS CORPORATION CORPORATE PATENT COUNSEL 580 WHITE PLAINS RD			EXAMINER		
			VU, NGOC K		
TARRYTOW	N, NY 10591		ART UNIT	ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER	
			2611		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
•	09/053,448	MALLART ET AL.	
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ngoc K. Vu	2611	
The MAILING DATE of this communication appeared for Reply	opears on the cover sheet with the c	orrespondence address	
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REP THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1 after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a re - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory perior - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statu - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). Status	136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be tin ply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) day d will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from tle, cause the application to become ABANDONE	nely filed s will be considered timely. the mailing date of this communication. D (35 U.S.C. § 133).	
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29	May 2002 .		
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☑ T	his action is non-final.		
Since this application is in condition for allow closed in accordance with the practice under Disposition of Claims	vance except for formal matters, progress of the parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 4	rosecution as to the merits is 153 O.G. 213.	
4)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1-10</u> is/are pending in the application	on.		
4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdra			
5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.			
6)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1-10</u> is/are rejected.			
7) Claim(s) is/are objected to.			
8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/	or election requirement.		
Application Papers			
9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examin	er.		
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a)☐ acc	epted or b) \square objected to by the Exam	miner.	
Applicant may not request that any objection to t		` '	
11) The proposed drawing correction filed on		ved by the Examiner.	
If approved, corrected drawings are required in re			
12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the E	xaminer.		
Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120			
13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreig	gn priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).	
a) All b) Some * c) None of:			
1. Certified copies of the priority documer			
2. Certified copies of the priority documer		<u> </u>	
 3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the pricapplication from the International B * See the attached detailed Office action for a lis 	ureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).		
14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domes			
a) The translation of the foreign language pr 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domes	ovisional application has been rec	eived.	
Attachment(s)	nic priority under 30 U.S.C. 99 120	anu/01 121.	
Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Pager No(s)	4) Interview Summary 5) Notice of Informal F	r (PTO-413) Paper No(s) Patent Application (PTO-152)	

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DETAILED ACTION

Continued Prosecution Application

1. The request filed on May 29, 2002 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/053,448 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 7-8 are objected to because of the following informalities: there is a typo at line19 in claim 7. The word "eth" should be typed as "the". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 4. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mielekamp et al (US 6,323,857 B1) in view of Brown (US 5,805,154 A).

Regarding claim 1, Mielekamp teaches a method of controlling communication to multiple end users at geographically different locations, comprising: enabling interconnecting at least one subset of the end users through a network (enabling users to interact, via a set of interconnected terminals, by reference to a virtual space); enabling interaction between the end users of the subset via the network (the system enables the users to interact with one another during operation as if they were present in a virtual space (see col. 1, lines 6-8, col. 4, lines 22-23). Mielekamp does not teach the method of switching between broadcasting mode and conference mode. However, Brown discloses broadcast portion of application including an option section 21 that presents an option for a user to switch to the on-demand portion of the

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application and a switching section 23 enabling the user to switch to the on-demand portion of the application, if the option is selected, to establish an interactive session (see col. 3, line 60 to col. 4, line 3, and col. 3, lines 1-10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Mielekamp by enabling switching between the broadcast portion and the on-demand portion of the application in order to allow users easily establishing an interactive session.

Regarding claim 2, Mielekamp discloses broadcasting the interaction to another subset of the end-users (the non-users) (see col. 1-2, lines 66-3, col. 3, lines 1-8).

Regarding claim 3, Mielekamp is modified by Brown further discloses the conversation/interaction between users is broadcast (see abstract, col. 1, lines 52-66).

Regarding claim 4, Mielekamp discloses creating and supplying a graphics representation of the video information to the subset of end users (generating a broadcast signal in addition to the picture information for the various terminals) (see col. 5, lines 9-10).

Regarding claim 5, Mielekamp discloses the end users in the subset is enabled to interactively modify the graphics representation (the terminals 12, 14 and 16 compose the visual pictures from a limited set of characters) (see col. 6, lines 34-35).

Regarding claim 6, Mielekamp discloses the interaction is broadcasted to another subset of end users (reception of the broadcast signal gives non-users the opportunity of perceiving the virtual space as it is perceived by the users), and one or more of the end users in the subset is enable to interactively modify the graphics representation (the terminals 12, 14 and 16 compose the visual pictures from a limited set of characters) (see col. 2, lines 1-22, 43-48, col. 4, lines 34-35).

Regarding claim 7, Mielekamp discloses a system for controlling communication between multiple end users at geographically different locations, the system comprising: a

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server (10); a respective one of multiple clients (12, 14, 16) for a respective one of the end users, the clients being coupled to the server (see figure 1); wherein: the server comprises: a transmission unit (330) for broadcasting content information to the users (generator 330 applies the picture information to the picture information distribution system 34 which applies the picture information on its outputs 35 to the various terminals 12, 14, 16 which reproduce the picture); a trigger unit (380) for triggering information during the broadcasting of at least one group of end users upon an event relating to the broadcasting (the location of the virtual space reproduced at the center of the picture by the broadcast signal generator 380 is then chosen so that the avatar associated with the selected terminal remains in the picture, the picture of the virtual space is transmitted with a broadcast signal. Selection of the terminal 12, 14, 16 can take place, for example if the avatar associated with the terminal is sent into a given part of the virtual space); a unit (310) for controlling the information of the group coupled to the trigger unit (location control operations for the avatar perform such a movement will be filtered out by the central processing unit 310) (see col. 5, lines 3-8, col. 4, lines 22-23, col. 6, lines 6-13, 55-60, col. 5, lines 19-30, col. 8, lines 9-14). Mielekamp teaches the system enables the users to interact with one another during operation as if they were present in a virtual space. Mielekamp does not teach the feature of switching between making accessible to broadcasted content information and entering a conference between the end users of the group via the clent. However, Brown discloses broadcast portion of application including an option section 21 that presents an option for a user to switch to the on-demand portion of the application and a switching section 23 enabling the user to switch to the on-demand portion of the application, if the option is selected. to establish an interactive session (see col. 3, line 60 to col. 4, line 3, and col. 3, lines 1-10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Mielekamp by

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enabling switching between the broadcast portion and the on-demand portion of the application in order to allow users easily establishing an interactive session.

Regarding claim 8, Mielekamp discloses the server further comprises: a sever input (31) for receiving video data; and a model generator (380) connected to the server input for generating a graphics model based on the video data; a server output (330) connected to the model generator for supply of the model; a respective client comprises a client input connected (35) to the server output for receipt of the model (see figure 2, col. 4-5, lines 66-8, col. 4, lines 13-16, col. 5, lines 19-27, col. 6, lines 45-47).

Regarding claim 9, Mielekamp discloses a client apparatus (12, 14, 16) for use with a video server (10), the client apparatus comprising: a receiver (120, 121 of terminal 12) for receiving a TV broadcast; an input for receipt of a control signal from the server (in order to enable interactive user control, the server 10 generates signals which are converted into observable, simulated pictures of the virtual space in the terminals 12, 14, 16). (see col. 4, lines 22-29 and figures 1-2). Mielekamp teaches the system enables the users to interact with one another during operation as if they were present in a virtual space. Mielekamp does not teach the feature of switching between making accessible to broadcast or making accessible to the end user a real-time communication channel with another client. However, Brown discloses broadcast portion of application including an option section 21 that presents an option for a user to switch to the on-demand portion of the application and a switching section 23 enabling the user to switch to the on-demand portion of the application, if the option is selected, to establish an interactive session on another channel to receive on-demand portion of the application (see col. 3, line 60 to col. 4, line 3, and col. 3, lines 1-10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Mielekamp by enabling switching between the broadcast portion and the on-demand portion of the application in order to allow users easily establishing

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an interactive session. Mielekamp does not disclose receiving the information via the Internet from another client. Official Notice is taken that client transmits/receives the information to/from another via the Internet, e.g., Internet relay chat system, is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Mielekamp by including client receives the information from another client via the Internet in order to provide clients a wide range communications to each other all over the world.

Regarding claim 10, Mielekamp does not disclose 3D graphics model accessible to the end user. Official Notice is taken that three-dimensional world is manipulated in an interactive manner over the Internet and shared by multiple users is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Mielekamp by including 3D world in an interactive manner in order to present information in a more visually appealing manner.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Junkin (US 5,860,862 A) teaches an interactive system allowing the participants to compete in an interactive game based on an event which is occurring in real time. Tomoda et al (US 5,832,229 A) teaches a multicast communication system allows user to join or leave multicast groups and specify communication quality using easily comprehensible and operable user terminal display.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ngoc K. Vu whose telephone number is 703-306-5976. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile can be reached on 703-305-4380. The fax phone numbers for the

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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-0377.

NV August 7, 2002

> ANDREW FAILE SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600